Approved For Release 2000/08/27 : CIA-RDP75-00149R0004

Defector Is Labeled

SEOUL (UPI) - Lee Su-kun emerged from North Korea in a hail of bullets and got a hero's welcome in South Korea.

His fame as a defector from communism spread and Lee's recent marriage was a national event in South Korea.

Today, South Korea's central intelligence agency announced that Lee has been arrested in Saigon while trying to return to North Korea.

They said he turned out to be

a Communist spy. The downfall of Lee was that

at heart, he was too good a Communist. But last March 22 he fooled many persons.

As vice president of North Korea's Central News Agency, he had gone to the North-South Korean truce site of Panmunjom with other Communist newsmen to cover one of the armistice commission meetings. Suddenly South Korean CIA men ques-he leaped into one of the automobiles of the U.S. Commission staff.

CPYRGHT

Rams Roadblock

The car sped away. It crashed through a Communist roadblock. Communist guards fired.

Their bullets hit the vehicle but not Lee.

Lee announced he was sick of life in North Korea and had chosen freedom. Admiring South Koreans filled his pockets with money and almost buried him in

His marriage to a South Korean college instructor was, for Scoul, almost a royal affair.



LEE SU-KUN

tioned talked.

Then they asked him what he munist dictator Kim Il-sung. Lee Cambodia to come in out of the was expected to be especially cold bitter about Kim whose regime cold. makes him the subject of almost personal worship. But Lee stuttered, hemmed and hawed.

Get False Mustache

That made the CIA suspicious. Who but a Communist would not lash Kem? They began tracking the "hero."

On Jan. 27 Lee donned a wig and a false mustache. With a forged passport and a man later identified as Bae Kyong-ok, a relative of a wife Lee had left: behind in North Korea, Lee boarded a plane at Seoul for Hong Kong.

The South Korean CIA missed him here. But South Korean officials were waiting at Hong Kong's Kaitak airport. They chased him through the corridors of the British colony's airport. Hong Kong police stepped in. The colony officials ruled that Lee could fly on to Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia as he wished.

Carried Document

Lee took the plane for the neutral Capital Jan. 31., But the plane stopped briefly in Saigon. And there the South Koreans

A document found on him was Lee. He talked and addressed to his North Korean spymasters and said his situation in South Korea had been Then they asked him what he getting too hot for him to stay, thought of North Korean Com- the CIA said. He was going to

The South Korean officials said Lee is being charged here with violating the anti-Communist law and national security. He foces a possible death sentence, if convicted.

grabbed him.

Approved For Release 2000/08/27 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400470017-2